

8th Grade US History Course Overview and Syllabus

Washington Latin PCS
2017-2018 Academic Year

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Welcome to Washington Latin's 8th grade US History course! Throughout the year, we will be delving into two questions in depth. First, whose story is being told in this class? Second, what rights and responsibilities does an individual have in the United States? To do this, we will interpret primary and secondary sources and will use the social sciences, especially economics, to add context to these documents. Special focus will be placed on thinking critically, articulating viewpoints supported with evidence, and appreciating value systems different from our own.

Curriculum:

- First Quarter: Colonialism and Revolution
- Second Quarter: Westward Expansion and Civil War
- Third Quarter: Reconstruction
- Fourth Quarter: Industrialization

Texts:

You will receive a numbered copy of "America: History of Our Nation" to take home. We also have a classroom set so you do not have to carry your text book back and forth. You are responsible for returning **the numbered text you received at the start of the year to me during reading week or final exam period**. If your number is not returned, you will be billed to replace the book (\$100).

In addition to this textbook, we will look at information from a variety of other sources. All supplementary readings will be posted digitally on the class weebly.

Grading:

Each marking period, your grade will be calculated using the following weights:

- 10% - Class Participation
- 30% - Homework
- 30% - Open Note Pop Quizzes
- 30% - Tests/Projects/Papers

Homework

All assignments are due at the start of class, unless otherwise specified. If an assignment is not complete at the start of class, it will receive a late penalty. Whether homework will be collected or graded on completion will typically not be announced.

I do not grant extensions on the day an assignment is due. Email me if you are unable to complete an assignment as soon as you are concerned. As an 8th grader, I expect to hear from you if you are concerned or confused on an assignment before class.

Unless otherwise announced, homework will be accepted late within 5 days of the due date with a 10% late penalty for each day it is late. Homework turned in after this point will be awarded no more than half credit. ** This classroom policy is different from the standard Washington Latin Public Charter School blanket policy because of the nature of the skills we are developing and the content we are covering in this course specifically. It has been discussed with and approved by administration. Please understand that the standard no homework, no credit policy will still be in place in other classes. **

Open Note Pop Quizzes:

There will be regular, unannounced, 20-minute open note pop quizzes. You may use **anything in your red history binder**. Your binder should be organized and complete, will all notes and assignments. Tabs will be used to divide units.

Participation Points

Your weekly participation points are determined by your physical and mental presence in class. You earn participation points by being an active participant in class; tracking the speaker, taking notes, completing class activities including the daily Do Now, and being prepared with your binder, writing implement, and plan book out at the start of class. Participation requires being on time and **IN DRESS CODE**. Students not in dress code will not be permitted to enter the classroom. If you are absent without getting in touch with me, you cannot receive participation points for the day because you did not participate in the lesson. You can earn up to 4 of the 5 daily participation points by contacting me to discuss the missed content.

Policies and Expectations:

Binder

You must have a red three-ringed binder with filler paper that you bring to **every** history class. All homework, notes, readings, and class activities should be organized chronologically by unit. If you have tabs, they should be used to separate units, NOT type of assignment.

Email

Email is the best way to reach me. However, **I will only respond to email that include an opening salutation, closing, and sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation**. When you email me with a question or a concern, you will know that it was received because I will respond. Please remember to check for a response.

Attendance

You are responsible for **any class work** and homework assigned during a class from which you were absent. I encourage you to let me know in advance of any planned absences, so that I can get the work to you ahead of time to prevent double duty (make up work during ongoing work).

Weebly vs. Wiki:

Our class wiki is like a digital plan book. It will list assignments and due dates only. More information will be posted on our class weebly. The weebly will have a page for each unit that identifies key concepts and includes any handouts, images, or readings from class. Due to copyright law, videos must be posted on a password protected page for which the password is **SumusLeones**. There is also a homework blog on the weebly that will have more detailed instructions and any required materials posted.

Final Exam:

There is a final exam in US History that will cover our course material for the year. There will be study guides provided, but **KEEP** your notes and assessments to prepare because the study guides will not re-teach you the material. The week before exams will be a "reading period" used to review. However, you will still need to study outside of this time. The final exam is worth 20% of your grade for the year.

High School and Other Recommendations:

If you would like a teacher recommendation from me, you must **provide sufficient notice** (10 business days) and a **self-addressed, self-stamped envelope** for me to send directly. Be sure that you fill out all parts of the recommendation that need to be completed by a student or guardian first. **You, the student**, should ask me to complete a recommendation.

US History 8 Syllabus and Course Overview

Ms. Coppola-Klein 2015-2016

I, _____, (student's first and last names) and my parent(s) and guardian(s) understand the policies and expectations for Ms. Coppola-Klein's US History class. Ms. Coppola-Klein has reviewed this information in class and has answered questions about these policies and expectations. I have written any additional questions under the signatures below.

I know that it is my responsibility to ask for clarification of these policies and expectations. I know Ms. Coppola-Klein can be reached by email at any time and I can make arrangements to see her during tutorial (M-F), break, or recess. I understand that it may take up to 24 working hours for her to respond to email.

By signing, my parent/guardian and I agree that we understand the policies and pledge to abide by all class rules to make the History classroom a safe, respectful, fair, and organized place where everyone can learn.

Student signature

Date

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Additional Questions or Comments: